TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

SYRIA

(Al Jumhuriyah al Arabiyah as

Karaman
TURKEY
Mardin
Adana
Ceyhan
Şanliurfa
Cizre
Gazjantep
Ra's al-'Ayn
Al Qāmishlī
Erdemli
Mersin
(İçel)
Kilis
Akçakale
Tall 'Afar
Mosul
Anamur
Silifke
Manbij
Al Ḥasakah
Antakya
Ḥalab
Ar Raqqah
Irbīl
Idlib
Rizokarpaso
Tigris
Kirkūk
Jablah
Ash Sharqāṭ
CYPRUS
Al
Lādhiqīyah
Ḥamāh
Dayr az Zawr
Tall al Qaṭā
Tuz
Larnaca
Al Mayādīn
Tripoli
(Ṭarābulus)
Tikrīt
Lemesós
Ḥimṣ
SYRIA
Abū Kamāl
LEBANON
MESOPOTAMIA
Mediterranean Sea
S Y R I A N
Ba'qūbah
Beirut
(Bayrut)
Baghdād
D E S E R T
Damascus
(Dimashq)
IRAQ
Qiryat Shemona
Ar Ruṭbah
As Suwaydā'
Karbalā'
ISRAEL
Netanya
Irbid
JORDAN
Al Ḥillah
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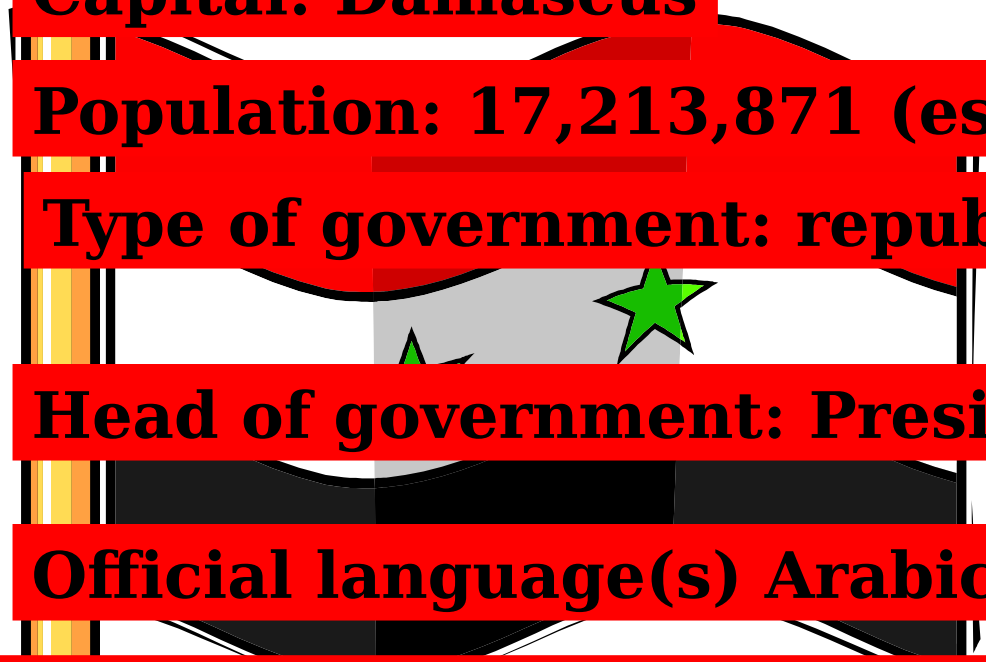
BACKGROUND

Full Name: Syrian Arab Republic

Capital: Damascus

Population: 17,213,871 (est)

Type of government: republic under mil



Head of government: President Hafiz al-

Official language(s) Arabic

Economy: Statist

Religions: Sunni Muslim (76%), other Muslim (14%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None. Amembassy recommends travel outside Damascus city limits be cleared with Amembassy Regional Security Officer (RSO) and USDAO prior to travel.. Travelers may visit any location where regular tourism is permitted.

International Airport: Damscus

Flights from Frankfurt: Syrian Arab Airlines

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/Rail

U.S. Embassy address: Abu Roumaneh, A-Mansur St, No. 2, P.O. Box 29., Damascus Tel: 963-11-333-2315/2814 FAX:

Transportation: Public transportation: Fair.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Poor.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor.

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: All personnel on PCS and TDY require passports and visas. Personnel on official travel should have no-fee passports. Dependents without no-fee passports may use Regular passports. Personnel with Diplomatic or Official passports who visit Syria for more than ten days and all other DoD personnel traveling/visiting for more than fifteen days must turn their passports in to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to obtain a visa extension. Military personnel on leave require passports and visas. Military personnel on leave require Country clearance from USDAO Damascus and must contact USDAO upon arrival in Syria. Dependents of DoD personnel and DoD civilians are authorized to travel to Syria with the following restrictions: Entry may be made by air or the Jordanian or Turkish borders. All travelers should check with American Embassies or consulates in Jordan or Turkey prior

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is

Duty-free entry for personal effects
persons born in the Gaza region or of Gazan descent.

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Foreigners who wish to stay 15 days or more in Syria must register with Syrian immigration by their fifteenth day in Syria. Travelers are advised that if a change of flight itinerary occurs for whatever reason, tickets issued on US carrier stock are not usable in exchange for Syrian Airlines tickets. If a change of itinerary becomes necessary, all effort should be made to use any of the many foreign carriers servicing Syria. Tickets for Syrian Airlines flights must be purchased with hard currency. Confirmed hotel reservations are usually obtainable with advance notice. Deposit for one night's reservation is required. Deposit will be forfeited if cancellation of reservation is not made prior to date reserved. Personnel with official passports receive a discount at Syrian hotels. Photographing military personnel, installations, and vehicles is strictly prohibited by law. Violators could be

Amembassy/USDAO operating hours are 0800-1700L Sun thru Thu. Amembassy is closed on Fri. Sat operating hours are 0900-1200L to clear immediate traffic only.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: There is a complex multiple-exchange rate system in effect in Syria. Syrian currency cannot be exchanged for any other currency except a government-approved exchange centers within Syria. Travelers must declare all foreign currency when they enter Syria. Amounts in excess of $5,000 US (or 2,000 for those holding dual Syrian-American nationality) is subject to confiscation upon leaving Syria.

Rate: Approximate: 70 Syrian Pounds for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, malaria, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, heat injuries and industrial pollution.

Availability of medical services: Basic modern medical care and medicines are available in the principal cities of Syria, but

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Syria. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Poor.

Health Precautions: Anti-malarial drugs should be taken prior to arrival in country.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B, typhoid, MMR, influenza, and TD.

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance is needed for high-ranking officers traveling to Syria. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 who are of Syrian birth or recent descent are subject to the Syrian compulsory military service requirement, unless they receive an exemption from the Syrian embassy in the US prior to their entry into Syria. Travelers to Syria are further cautioned that, although Syria is a signatory to the Vienna convent, consular notification and access to arrested Americans is problematic. Syrian officials generally do not notify the Amembassy when US citizens are arrested. Children under 18 whose fathers are Syrian must have the father's permission to depart Syria, even if the mother has been granted full custody by a Syrian court. Driving in Syria requires great caution. Although drivers generally follow traffic signs and signals, they often maneuver aggressively and show little regard to vehicles traveling

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Crime is generally not a serious problem for travelers in Syria. Syria is included on the Department of State's list of state sponsors of terrorism. There is no record of terrorist attacks against Americans in Syria and Syrian government officials have repeatedly stated their commitment to protect Americans. However, a number of terrorist groups which oppose U.S. policies in the Middle East have a presence in this country. The loss or theft of a U.S. passport abroad should be reported immediately to local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

Syria is strict on: Drugs. Penalties for possession of even small amounts of illegal drugs are severe in Syria. The penalty in Syria for growing, processing or smuggling drugs is the death penalty, which may be reduced to a minimum of 20

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

Http://www.weatherunderground.com/

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions:

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

SYRIA